

**(Washington, DC)** Tonight, the House of Representatives passed an amendment introduced by Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) to H.R. 4061, the *Cybersecurity Enhancement Act*

. Hastings' amendment addresses the lack of minority representation in the cybersecurity industry—including women and African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. The amendment adds language to describe how successful programs are engaging said minorities and addresses a plan of action to include minority-serving institutions on the Cybersecurity University-Industry Task Force. The amendment passed by a vote of 417 to 5.

**(Please find attached a copy of the amendment).**

"I was disappointed, though, to discover the significant gender and racial disparities in the cybersecurity industry. We know cyberspace touches practically everything and everyone and, yet, I find it mind-boggling that we haven't made more of an effort to include everyone in protecting it," Hastings said.

"If we are going to address cybersecurity workforce concerns and advance the development of technical standards, we need to consider all of the different innovative opportunities out there."

"Women now constitute 50.7 percent of the US population as of 2008 and the US Census Bureau found that only 14 percent of women pursue professional careers in science or technology. Other underrepresented groups mentioned in my amendment include African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. All of these groups have historically been underrepresented in scientific and engineering occupations. The US Census Bureau recorded African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans as 28.2 percent of the US population in 2008 and, yet, these groups only represent a mere 10 percent of the science and technology industry."

Hastings added, "In order to protect cyberspace, we need a strong vision and leadership. Both will require changes in policy, technology, education, and perhaps law. This bill will be recruiting the best and brightest and we must ensure these opportunities are available to all Americans."

**Joining Hastings as an original co-sponsor of the amendment:** Representative Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX).

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

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 [HASTINGS AMENDMENT to HR 4061 Cybersecurity Enhancement Act 2-1-10.pdf](#)